

Immediacy

Often overlooked in nonverbal communication, immediacy connotes the effects of a given space and time on people, usually two who meet and "explode" into interaction. Implicit is a reservoir of wonderful mutuality of human relationships between each. And so, the closer two people are to each other, the more immediate their interaction. Yet in most of our human relations settings outside the nuclear family, e.g., teaching, counseling, we are taught to remain aloof or is *objective* the world? The greater the immediacy, the more channels for communication are open (Merhrabian, 1971) and how else communication?

Fie, Fie upon you!
There's language in your eyes,
Your cheek, your lip.

Nay, your foot speaks: your wanton
spirits look out at every
joint and motive of your body.

Adapted from Shakespeare's *Troilus and Cressida*

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